

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for making contact to cells present in a liquid environment above a substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- creating electrical microelements;
- creating a contact between said cells and said microelements; and
- creating a force for guiding the cells onto the microelements, wherein said force is exerted as a negative-pressure.

Claims 31-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Original) The method as defined in claim 30, wherein the cells are stimulated via microelements configured as microelectrodes.

39. (Original) The method as defined in claim 30, which further comprises the step of sensing potentials of the cells via the microelements which are configured as microelectrodes.

Claim 40 (Cancelled)

41. (Original) The method as defined in claim 39, which further comprises the step of measuring the light absorption of the cells via the microelements which are configured as microphotodiodes.

Claims 42-47 (Cancelled)

48. (New) A method for making contact to cells present in a liquid environment above a substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- creating electrical microelements;
- creating a contact between said cells and said microelements; and
- creating a force for guiding the cells, wherein the force is exerted as a

hydrodynamic force that is exerted by electroosmosis, in particular by way of an electrolyte flow generated by electroosmosis.

49. (New) The method as defined in claim 48, wherein the cells are stimulated via microelements configured as micro-electrodes.

50. (New) The method as defined in claim 48, which further comprises the step of sensing potentials of the cells via the microelements which are configured as microelectrodes.

51. (New) A method for making contact to cells present in a liquid environment above a substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- creating electrical microelements;
- creating a contact between said cells and said microelements; and
- creating a force for guiding the cells, wherein the force is exerted as an attractive force on the basis of electrical charging of the cells and an electric field acting in the direction of the microelements.

52. (New) The method as defined in claim 51, wherein the cells are stimulated via microelements configured as micro-electrodes.

53. (New) The method as defined in claim 51, which further comprises the step of sensing potentials of the cells via the microelements which are configured as microelectrodes.

54. (New) A method for making contact to cells present in a liquid environment above a substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- creating electrical microelements;
- creating a contact between said cells and said microelements;
- creating a force for guiding the cells; and
- sensing the luminescence of the cells via the microelements which are configured as microphotodiodes.